

Message

From: Engelman-Lado, Marianne [marianne.engelman-lado@yale.edu]
Sent: 8/21/2018 4:13:13 PM
To: Dorka, Lilian [Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov]
CC: McGhee, Debra [mcghee.debra@epa.gov]; Stein, Jonathan [Stein.Jonathan@epa.gov]; Rhines, Dale [rhines.dale@epa.gov]; ejantz@nmelc.org; Yumehiko Hoshijima [yume.hoshijima@ylsclinics.org]; Suzanne Novak [snovak@earthjustice.org]; Leah Aden [LAden@naacpldf.org]; Jonathan J. Smith [jjsmith@earthjustice.org]
Subject: Timing of ECRCO Investigation into Ashurst Bar/Smith Community Organization Complaint and SouthWest Organizing Project Complaint
Attachments: 2018-08-21 ABSCO SWOP Ltr to EPA Investigation Deadline.pdf

Dear Director Dorka,

Attached please find a letter submitted jointly on behalf of the Ashurst Bar Community Organization (ABSCO) and the SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP) to seek clarity and raise concerns about the timing of EPA's investigations into complaints filed by ABSCO, EPA Case # 16R-17-R4, and SWOP, EPA Case # 13R-14-R6. Recently, representatives of ECRCO communicated to counsel in both cases that EPA intended to close both complaints "by the end of the fiscal year." As you know, EPA has the responsibility for ensuring civil rights compliance by recipients of federal funds from EPA, and we want to be clear that EPA's investigations must not only be timely but also thorough. We seek clarity about the relevance of the fiscal year and why EPA would impose what seem like arbitrary deadlines with respect to these two administrative complaints rather than pursue factual information and, in the SWOP case, allow the parties to seek resolution through ADR.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this question.

Sincerely,

Marianne

Marianne Engelman Lado
on behalf of ABSCO
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